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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,395	01/28/2004	Hiroyuki Minaguchi	008312-0307954	2549

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EXAMINER

WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,395

Applicant(s)

MINAGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo US 6762928 B2 in view of Suh US 61581051.

With respect to claim 1, Lo teaches (fig. 1) a notebook computer comprising: a first housing (120), a second housing (110), hinges (130) which connect the two housings (120,110), and a latch mechanism (150,160) which fixes the first housing (120) and second housing (110) in the overlaid state, wherein the latch mechanism (150,160) comprises a hook member (150) which is projected from the second housing (110), and inserted into the first housing (120) in the state the second housing (110) is overlaid on the first housing (120), a lock member (251) which is built in the first housing (120), and engaged with the hook member (150) in one end, holding the first housing (120) and second housing (110) in the overlaid state, a push member (230) which pushes the hook member (150) inserted into the first housing (120) toward the outside of the first housing (120) and a button (250) that presses the lock member (251) to disengage the lock member (251) from the hook member (150).

Lo fails to teach the lock member rotating in response to pressing the button (250) and instead teaches linear movement of the lock button (col. 3, lines 38-48).

Suh teaches (fig. 5, 6) a latching mechanism comprising a button (22) that presses one end of the lock member comprising a catch (62) and an edge portion (57)), rotates the lock member

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(62) around a rotation shaft (43) (see, col. 5, lines 32-53 of Suh) and disengages the lock member (edge portion (57) from the hook member (54), wherein said one end of the lock member (opposite end to (62) rotates in an opposite direction to a pressing direction around a rotation shaft (43) provided between said end and the other end, and disengages the lock member (edge portion of (57)) from the hook member (54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the lock and hook member of Suh in the invention of Lo, in order to allow two members of a computer case to be easily opened, without the use of screws or tools (see, Abstract of Suh).

With respect to claim 2, Suh teaches (fig. 5,6) a latching mechanism comprising a torsion coil spring (20) causes the lock member (62) to rotate around the rotation shaft (43) until it reaches a stop surface near the button (22) (col. 5 lines 32-53 of Suh).

With respect to claim 3, Lo teaches (fig. 3) the button (250) exposed to the outside surface of the first housing (120) not covered by the second housing (110).

With respect to claim 4, Lo teaches (fig. 3) that while a lock member (251) releases the hook member (150), the push member (230), comprising a top plate (see upper surface portion of push member (230) in (fig. 3), presses the hook member (150) upward with power stored by a spring (240) (col. 3, lines 49-55).

With respect to claim 5, Lo teaches (fig. 1-3) a notebook computer comprising a main unit (120) which has an opening (see, for example, (280) in fig. 3) a display panel (110) which is connected to the main unit (120), rotatable between an opened position and a closed position to the main unit (120), a hook member (150) which is provided in the display panel, and inserted into the opening (280) when the display panel (110) is at the closed position, a button (250) which is provided in the main unit (120) and a push member (230) which is provided in the main

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unit (120) and presses the hook member (150) from the closed position to the opened position of the display panel (110), interlocking with the depression of the button (250) (col. 3, lines 1-37).

Lo does not teach a lock member having a rotation shaft or a button to rotate the lock member, wherein said one end of the lock is displaced in an opposite direction to a pressing direction of the button.

Suh. teaches (fig. 5,6) a latch mechanism comprising a lock member (62) which has a rotation shaft (43), and is rotatable around the rotation shaft (43) between an engage position where one end is engaged with the hook member (54), and a release position where the engagement with the hook member (54) is released and a button (22) that rotates the lock member (62) from the engage position to the release position.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the latch mechanism of Suh in the invention of Lo, in order to allow two members of a computer case to be easily opened, without the use of screws or tools (see, Abstract of Suh).

With respect to claim 6, Lo teaches (fig. 3) a spring (260) that is attached to the lock member (251) and urges one end of the lock member (251) toward the engage position at all times (col. 3, lines 26-31 & col. 4, lines 33-34).

With respect to claim 7, Lo teaches (fig. 3) a spring (240) that is attached to the push member (230), and urges the push member (230) toward the opening (280) until the LCD module is opened to the predetermined distance or more (col. 3, lines 49-57).

With respect to claim 8, Lo teaches (fig. 3) a button (250) which is provided and exposed in the front edge of the main unit (120) (col. 3, lines 26-31).

With respect to claim 9, Lo teaches (fig. 3) a spacer (top upper surface plate portion of push member (230) in fig. 3) which is provided to press the hook member (150) and arranged near the hook member (150) and one end of the push member (230) when the display panel (110) is at the closed position.

Response to Arguments

2. In regards to the Applicant's Arguments, the Examiner agrees that the Lo or Wang fails to teach a button which press the other end of the lock member, and rotates said one end of the lock member in an opposite direction around a rotation shaft provided between said one end and the other end, and disengages the lock member from the hook member.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IDW

Lisa Lea-Edmonds
LISA LEA-EDMONDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER